

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NOS. 2009-75-W, 2009-99-W, 2009-101-W, 2009-102-W, and 2009-109-W

ORDER NO. 2009-318

MAY 20, 2009

IN RE: Melanie Wilson, Judy B. Roof, Deborah and	) ORDER
Scott Burriss, Leslie and Mark Hendrix, and	) CONSOLIDATING
Richard Dawkins	) DOCKETS, HOLDING
	) MOTION TO DISMISS IN
Complainants/Petitioners,	) ABEYANCE,
	) REQUESTING STAFF TO
v.	) SET A HEARING
	) SCHEDULE, AND
Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc.	) APPOINTING JOCELYN
	) G. BOYD, ESQUIRE AS A
Defendant/Respondent.	) HEARING OFFICER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on a motion filed by Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. (“USSC”) to dismiss the Complaints in Docket Nos. 2009-75-W, 2009-99-W, 2009-101-W, 2009-102-W, and 2009-109-W. We hold the Motion to Dismiss in abeyance, and order that the Commission’s Docketing Department consolidate these Dockets for judicial economy and set a hearing date in this matter. Further, we appoint Jocelyn Boyd, Esquire, as Hearing Officer.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2008), the purpose of this appointment is for Ms. Boyd to dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters. Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural

motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

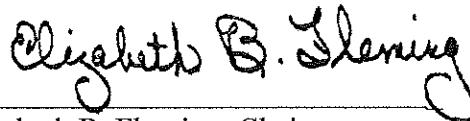
We find that Jocelyn Boyd meets these qualifications, and we therefore appoint her as hearing officer in this case. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Ms. Boyd to rule on procedural and evidentiary matters in the case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion to Dismiss filed by USSC is held in abeyance in the aforementioned Dockets.
2. Docket Nos. 2009-75-W, 2009-99-W, 2009-101-W, 2009-102-W, and 2009-109-W are to be consolidated and a hearing schedule set.
3. Jocelyn G. Boyd is hereby appointed as hearing officer for disposition of procedural and evidentiary matters.

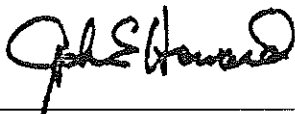
4. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST:



John E. Howard, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)